

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2004

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to expand the current federal policy concerning embryonic stem cell research.

As you know, embryonic stem cells have the potential to be used to treat and better understand deadly and disabling diseases that affect more than 100 million Americans, such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, and many others.

Embryonic stem cells are derived from in vitro fertilized (IVF) embryos that are developed in excess of those needed for the process to allow infertile couples to have children. The IVF process results in more embryos than are needed by the couple. There are estimated to be more than 400,000 IVF embryos, which are currently frozen and will likely be destroyed if not donated, with informed consent of the couple, for research.

We very much appreciate your words of support for the enormous potential of this research, and we know that you intended your policy to help promote this research to its fullest. As you know, the Administration's policy limits federal funding only to embryonic stem cells that were derived by August 9, 2001, the date of the policy announcement.

However, scientists have told us that since the policy went into effect more than two years ago, we have learned much more about why the embryonic stem cell lines eligible for federal funding will not be suitable to effectively promote this research. We therefore feel it is essential to relax the restrictions in the current policy for this research to be fully explored.

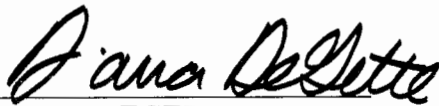
Among the current challenges with the current policy are the following:

- While it originally appeared that 78 embryonic stem cell lines would be available for research under the federal policy, now, more than two years after August 9, 2001, only 19 are available to researchers.
- All available stem cell lines are contaminated with mouse feeder cells, making their therapeutic use for humans uncertain.
- Scientists are reporting that it is increasingly difficult to attract new scientists to this area of research because of concerns that funding restrictions will keep this research from being successful.

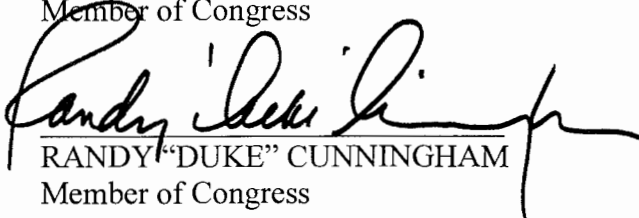
- This promising field of research is moving overseas. We have already seen researchers move to countries like the United Kingdom, which have more supportive policies. In fact, leadership in this area of research has shifted to the United Kingdom, which sees this scientific area as a cornerstone of its biotech industry and which is leading the International Stem Cell Forum, made up of scientific agencies from nearly a dozen countries.

Mr. President, we know that you have been a strong supporter of medical research and share our commitment to curing disease and alleviating human suffering. We would very much like to work with you to modify the current embryonic stem cell policy so that it provides this area of research the greatest opportunity to lead to the treatments and cures we all are hoping for.

Sincerely,



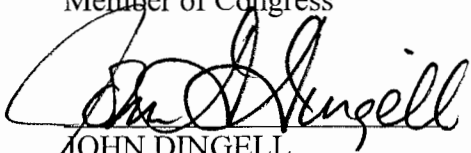
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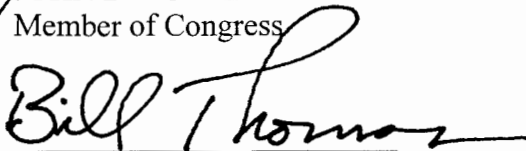
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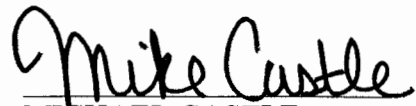
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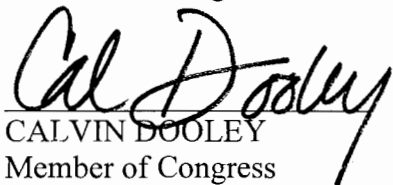
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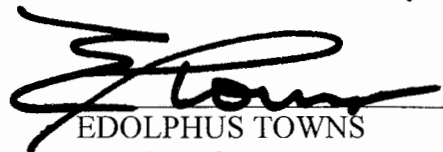
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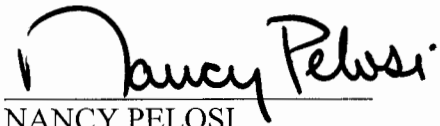
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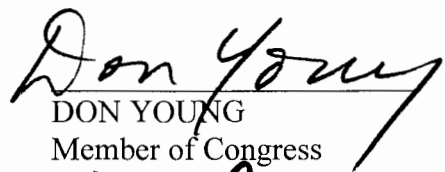
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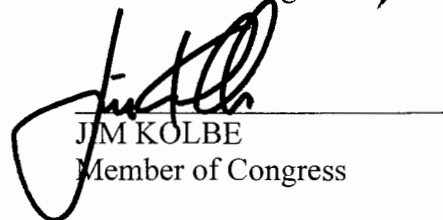
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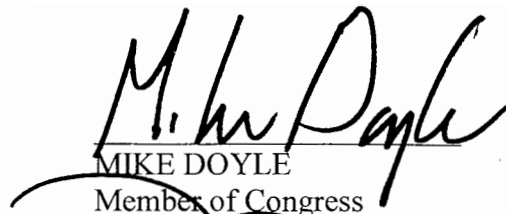
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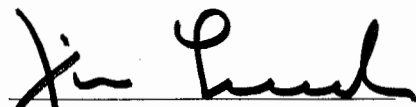
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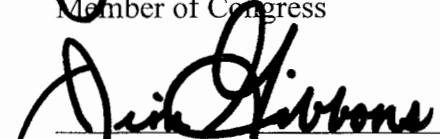
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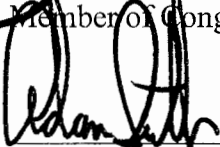
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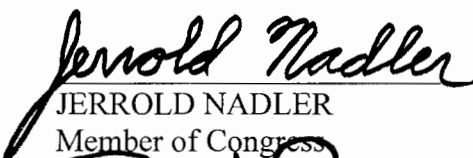
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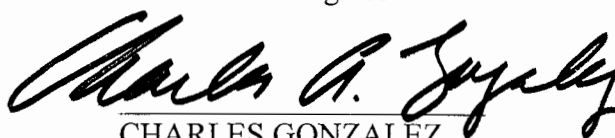
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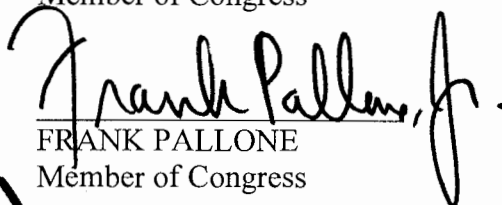
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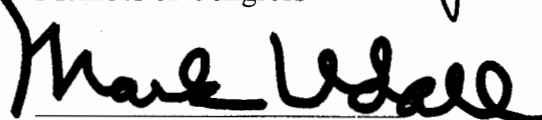
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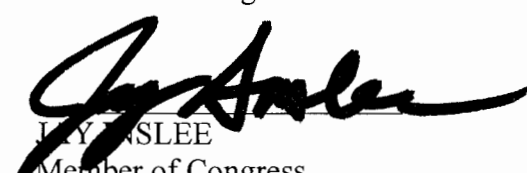
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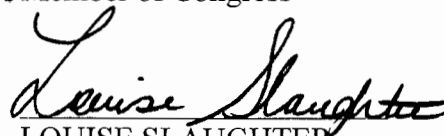
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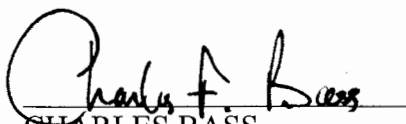
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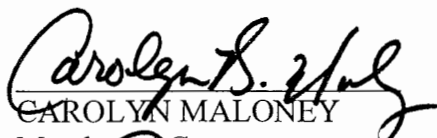


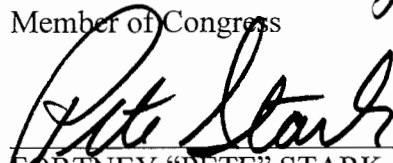
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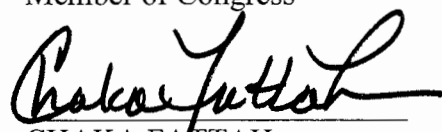
  
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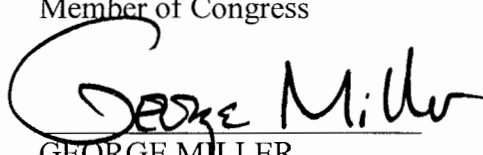
  
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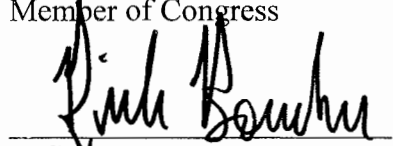
  
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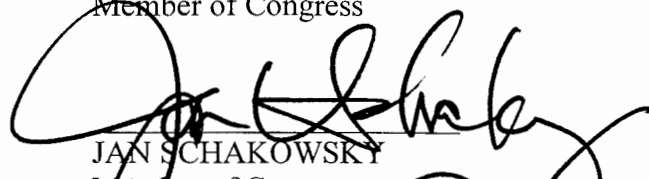
  
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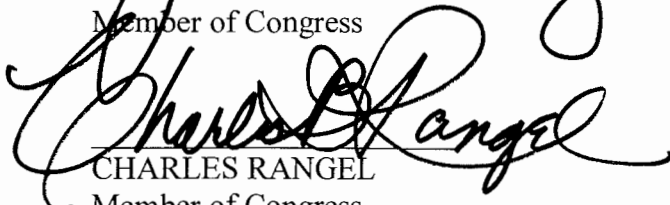
  
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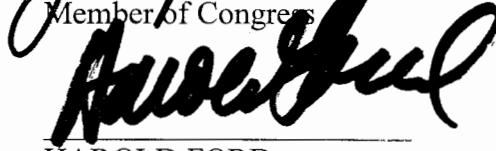
  
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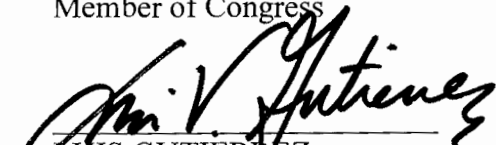
  
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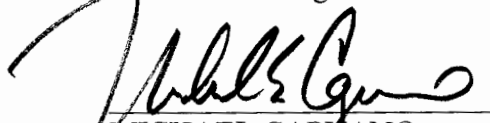
  
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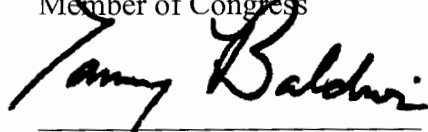
  
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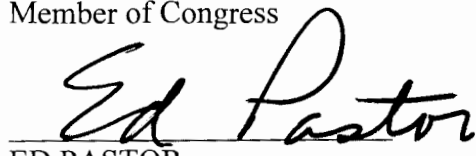
  
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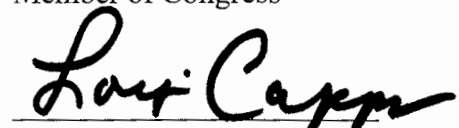
  
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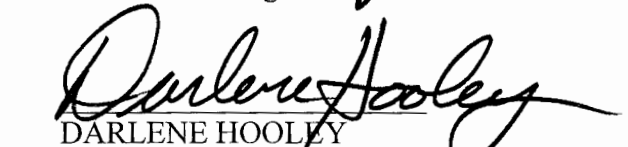
  
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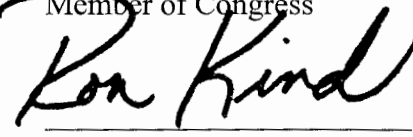
  
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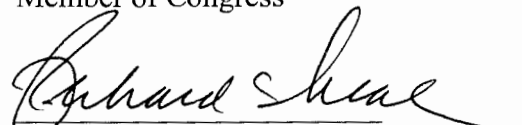
  
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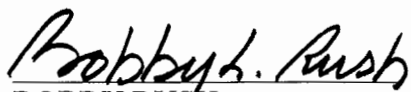
  
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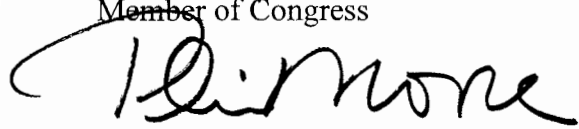
  
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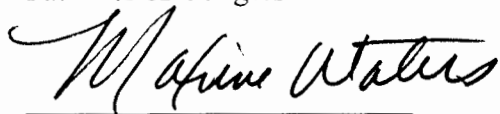
  
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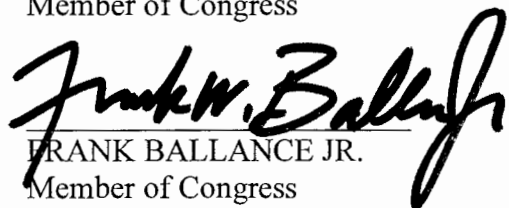
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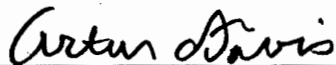
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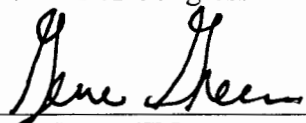
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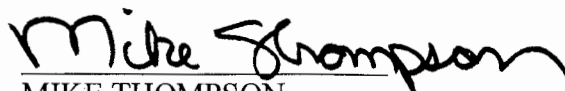
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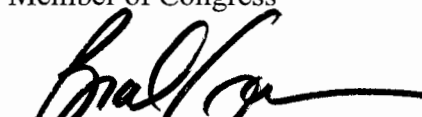
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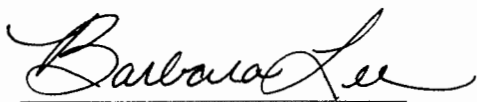
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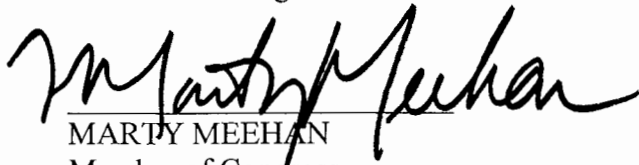
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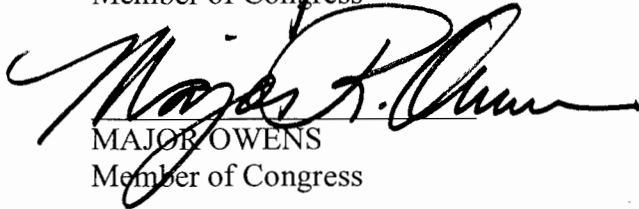
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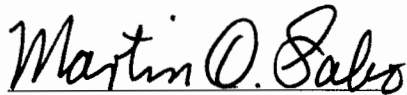
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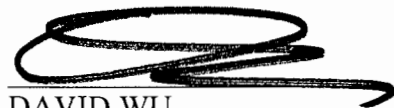
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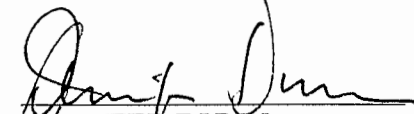
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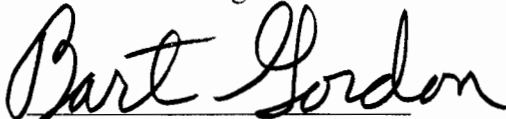
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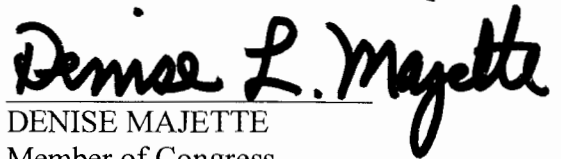
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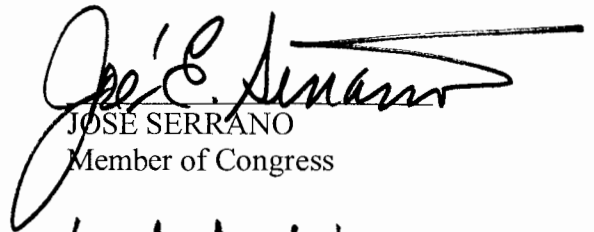
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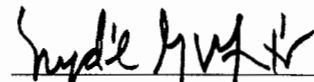
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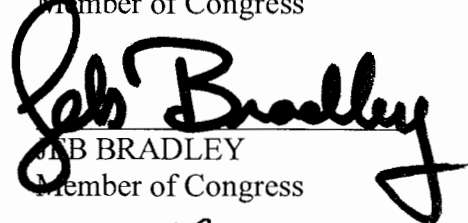
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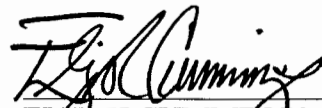
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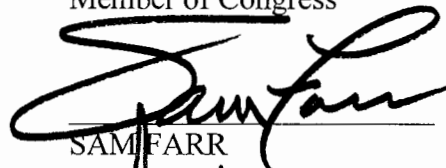
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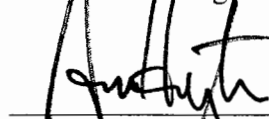
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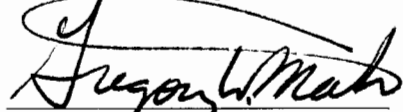
  
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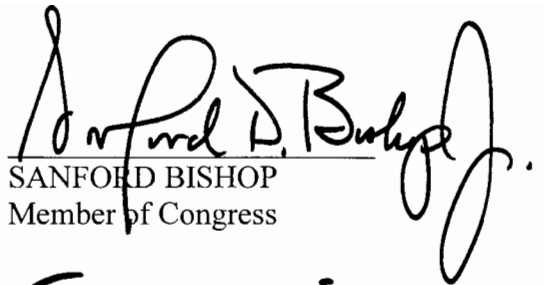
  
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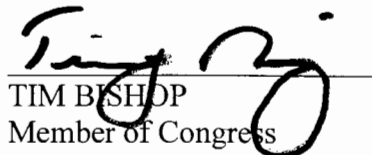
  
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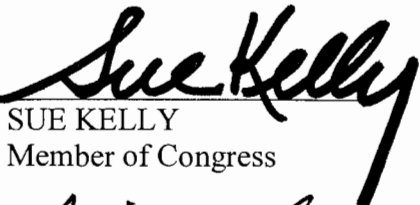
  
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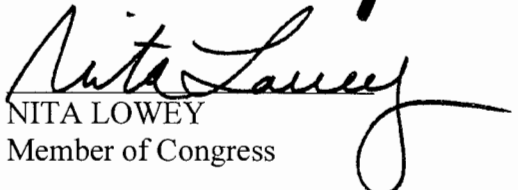
  
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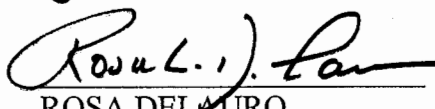
  
JIM DAVIS  
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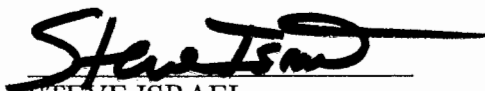
  
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Member of Congress

  
ED CASE  
Member of Congress

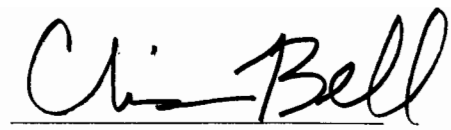
  
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Member of Congress


  
JOSEPH HOEFEL  
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ROSA DELAURO  
Member of Congress

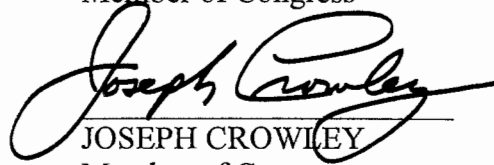
  
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Member of Congress

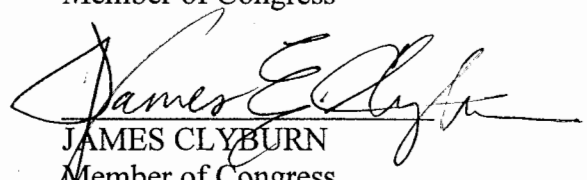
  
MARK FOLEY  
Member of Congress


  
CHRIS BELL  
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JOHN TIERNEY  
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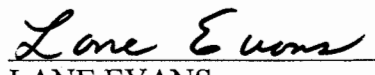
  
CORRINE BROWN  
Member of Congress

  
JOSEPH CROWLEY  
Member of Congress

  
JAMES CLYBURN  
Member of Congress

  
TOM DAVIS  
Member of Congress

  
NORMAN DICKS  
Member of Congress

  
LANE EVANS  
Member of Congress

  
MARTIN FROST  
Member of Congress

*Wayne T. Gilchrist*  
WAYNE GILCHRIST  
Member of Congress

*Maurice Hinchey*  
MAURICE HINCHEY  
Member of Congress

*Hilda Solis*  
HILDA SOLIS  
Member of Congress

*Jesse Jackson Jr.*  
JESSE JACKSON JR.  
Member of Congress

*Stephanie Tubbs Jones*  
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES  
Member of Congress

*Donna Christian-Christensen*  
DONNA CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN  
Member of Congress

*John B. Larson*  
JOHN LARSON  
Member of Congress

*Sander Levin*  
SANDER LEVIN  
Member of Congress

*Karen McCarthy*  
KAREN MCCARTHY  
Member of Congress

*Jim Greenwood*  
JIM GREENWOOD  
Member of Congress

*Susan Davis*  
SUSAN DAVIS  
Member of Congress

*Rahm Emanuel*  
RAHM EMANUEL  
Member of Congress

*Robert Menendez*  
ROBERT MENENDEZ  
Member of Congress

*Mark Kirk*  
MARK KIRK  
Member of Congress

*James Moran*  
JAMES MORAN  
Member of Congress

*Donald Payne*  
DONALD PAYNE  
Member of Congress

*William L. Lipinski*  
WILLIAM LIPINSKI  
Member of Congress

*Betty McCollum*  
BETTY MCCOLLUM  
Member of Congress


  
JIM MCDERMOTT  
Member of Congress

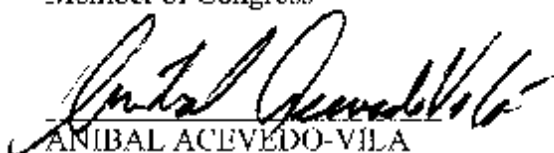
  
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Member of Congress

  
JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD  
Member of Congress

  
DOUG OSE  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN LEWIS  
Member of Congress

  
MIKE ROSS  
Member of Congress

  
ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILA  
Member of Congress

  
LORETTA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress

  
SCOTT MCINNIS  
Member of Congress

  
PATRICK KENNEDY  
Member of Congress

  
JAMES LANGEVIN  
Member of Congress


  
JOHN OLVER  
Member of Congress

  
BILL PASCRELL JR.  
Member of Congress

  
JIM RAMSTAD  
Member of Congress

  
STEVEN ROTHMAN  
Member of Congress

  
LINDA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress

  
MAX SANDLIN  
Member of Congress

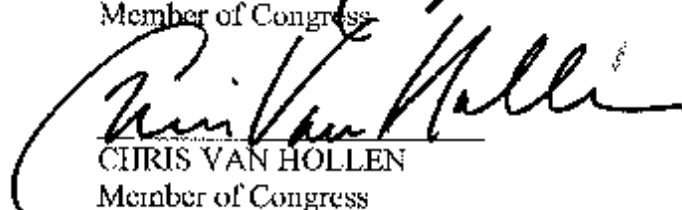
  
BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress



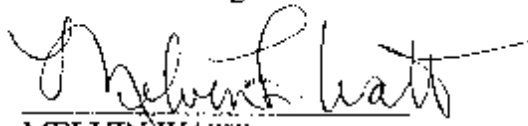
MARY BONO  
Member of Congress



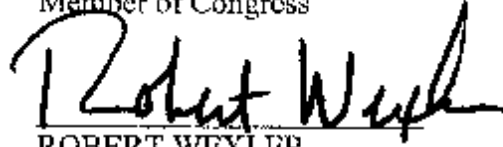
BENNIE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
Member of Congress



MELVIN WATT  
Member of Congress



ROBERT WEXLER  
Member of Congress



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress



JANE HARMAN  
Member of Congress



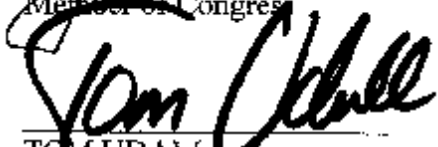
CAROLYN KILPATRICK  
Member of Congress



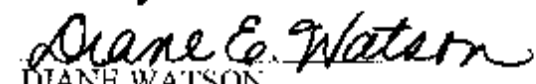
BERNARD SANDERS  
Member of Congress



JOHN SPRATT  
Member of Congress



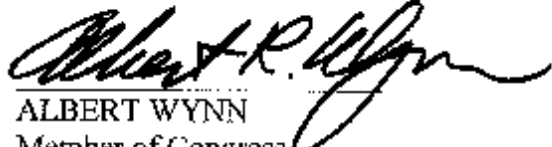
TOM UDALL  
Member of Congress



DIANE WATSON  
Member of Congress



ANTHONY WEINER  
Member of Congress




ALBERT WYNN  
Member of Congress



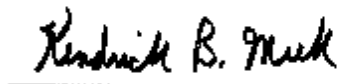
ALCEE HASTINGS  
Member of Congress



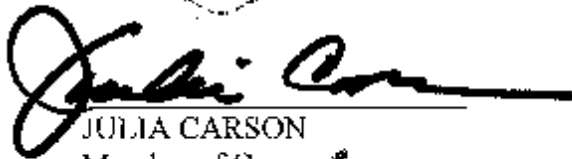
JOHN CONYERS  
Member of Congress

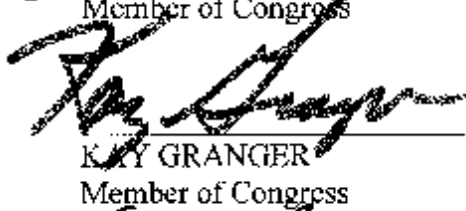


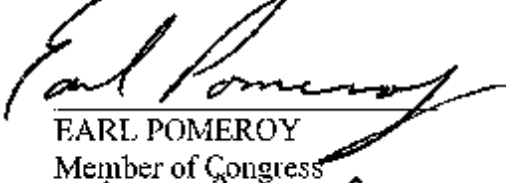
BOBBY SCOTT  
Member of Congress



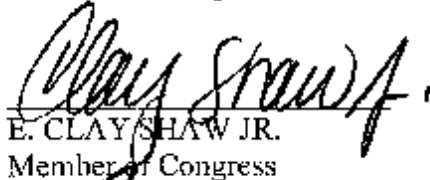
KENDRICK MEEK  
Member of Congress

  
JULIA CARSON  
Member of Congress

  
KAY GRANGER  
Member of Congress

  
EARL POMEROY  
Member of Congress

  
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

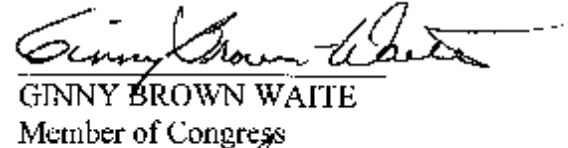
  
E. CLAY SHAW JR.  
Member of Congress

  
PHILIP ENGLISH  
Member of Congress

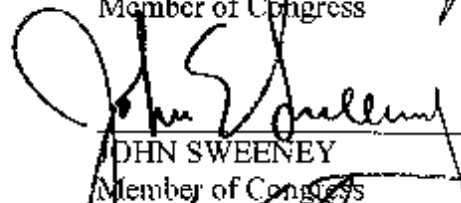
  
George R. Vatterott Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress

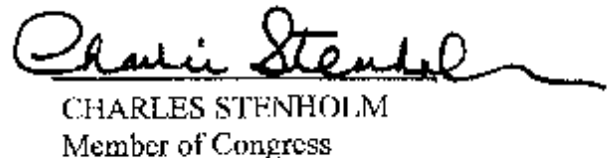
  
JAMES MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress

  
GINNY BROWN WAITE  
Member of Congress

  
BOB ETHERIDGE  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN SWEENEY  
Member of Congress

  
KEN CALVERT  
Member of Congress

  
CHARLES STENHOLM  
Member of Congress